

## COMPILER'S PREFACE.

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THE Libraries of the Legislature and the Nova Scotia Historical Society having been amalgamated by an Act passed in 1880, the books of both collections are included in the present catalogue.

This volume does not comprise the pamphlets, which have been catalogued by a different hand and on a wholly different system from the books. It would of course have been desirable to have combined pamphlets and books in the same catalogue, but this would have been impracticable without previously recataloguing the pamphlets upon the card system and then uniting the book and pamphlet cards in one alphabetical arrangement. To have done this would have nearly doubled the labor and would have delayed the volume to an extent that might have seemed disrespectful to those members of the Legislature who had asked for its publication. Stray references, however, to the unprinted Pamphlet Catalogue have been introduced whenever the compiler happened to remember that useful information on any subject was to be found among the pamphlets; while a few pamphlets have been bound, singly or in sets, and regularly catalogued in this volume.

Except when they are different editions of the same work, duplicates are not entered in this catalogue. A rough list has, however, been made of the duplicates, and a descriptive list of the manuscripts belonging to the Library.

To save space, the Christian names of authors are usually given in full in the author-entries only; while the titles are more fully transcribed in the title-entries than elsewhere.

This catalogue has been based on the card-catalogue, revised by the Librarian with the efficient aid of his present assistant, Mr. H. Piers. The arrangement of the books in the subject-groups, in the alphabetical order of the first words of their titles, has (except in the case of BIOGRAPHY) been retained, as it would have taken too much time to have altered it throughout. All the explanatory notes and cross-references have been added. Efforts have always been made—not invariably with success—to find the real names of pseudonymous and anonymous authors, the full names of authors whose initials only appear on title-pages, and the years of publication of undated volumes. Where only approximate certainty has been attained in these inquiries, the name or date has sometimes been inserted with a query (?) following it.

Much care has been given to correcting and supplementing the subject-groups. For whatever omissions still exist among them the compiler would feel